

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: FEED PREPARATION IN UKRAINE CONDUCTED UNDER DIFFICULT
CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

1. WINTER FEED PREPARATION IN THE UKRAINE IS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS THIS YEAR WHICH OFTEN REQUIRES FARMERS TO GO INTO THE FIELDS EN MASSE WITH RAKES, PITCHFORKS AND SCYTHES TO CUT AND REMOVE FEED FROM THE FIELDS. DESPITE THIS EFFORT, WORK IN MANY AREAS OF FEED PRODUCTION LAG THE LEVELS ATTAINED AYEAR AGO.

2. ACCORDING TO THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINE, AS OF JULY 30 NEARLY 2.3 MILLION TONS OF HAY HAVE BEEN STORED, OR ABOUT 1 PERCENT OF THEPLAN. THIS AMOUNT REPORTEDLY IS 370,000 TONS GREATER THAN THAT SECURED ON THE SAME DATE ONE YEAR AGO. HAYLAGE PREPARATION HAS PROGRESSED WILL, REACHING 8.96 MILLION TONS, MORE THAN 93 PERCENT OF THE PLAN AND 2.87 MILLION TONS MORE THAN LAST YEAR. OF THE REMAINING FEEDS, SILAGE PREPARATION AND STORAGE REPORTEDLY REACHED 1.2 MILLION TONS, ABOUT 500,000 TONS ABOVE LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. SOMEWHAT SLOWER PROGRESS WAS REPORTED FOR ALFALFA MEAL PREPARATION WHICH WAS 337,000 TONS, OR 56 PERCENT OF PLAN. THIS REPORTEDLY WAS 114,000 TONS MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

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3. IN SPITE OF THE REPORTED GAINS FOR THE SELECTED FEEDS

LISTED ABOVE, UKRAINIAN FARMERS ARE LAGGING IN OTHER AREAS OF FEED PROCUREMENT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, AT THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST ONE YEAR AGO 81 PERCENT OF THE AREA IN NATURAL AND SOWN GRASSES HAD BEEN CUT, COMPARED WITH ONLY 78 PERCENT CUT THIS YEAR. REPORTEDLY SOME 250,000 HECTARES ARE WAITING TO BE CUT IN THE OBLASTS OF LVOV, ZAKARPATE AND VOLYN. CLEARING POST HARVEST STRAW FROM FIELDS IS ALSO LAGGING. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR 84 PERCENT OF THE STRAW HAD BEEN REMOVED AND STACKED. THIS YEAR ONLY 73 PERCENT OF THIS WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT THE 11 PERCENT DIFFERENCE MAY NOT SEEM GREAT BUT WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS IS THAT BY THIS TIME LAST YEAR STRAW WAS REMOVED FROM AN AREA THREE MILLION HECTARES LARGER THAN THIS YEAR. THE LARGEST GAP BETWEEN THRESHING AND REMOVING THE STRAW WAS "ALLOWED" BY COLLECTIVES IN THE OBLASTS OF SUMY AND LVOV WHERE ONLY 36 PERCENT OF THE STRAW LYING IN FIELDS HAS BEEN REMOVED. OTHER OBLASTS THAT REPORTEDLY ARE LAGGING IN STRAW REMOVAL INCLUDE TERNOPOL, WHERE LESS THAN 50 PERCENT HAS BEEN REMOVED, IVANO-FRANKOVSK, ROVNO, CHMELNITSKIY, AND CHERNOVTSY WHERE ONLY 55 PERCENT OF STRAW HAS BEEN CLEARED FROM THE FIELDS.

4. THE PRESS COMMENTS THAT THIS SITUATION IS "FRAUGHT WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" AND WILL RESULT NOT ONLY IN SPOILAGE AND FEED SHORTAGES BUT WILL ALSO HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON NEXT YEAR'S HARVEST BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN STUBBLE PLOWING AND PREPARATION OF FIELDS FOR WINTER SOWING. ACCORDINGLY (THE AUTHOR) IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PARTY, SOVIET AND ECONOMIC ORGANS TO EXTEND NECESSARY HELP TO LEADERS AND SPECIALISTS OF THE COLLECTIVES IN MOBILIZING ALL EFFORTS AND MEANS TO REMOVE AND STOCK THE STRAW FOLLOWING THRESHING.

5. COMMENT: THE INTERESTING ASPECT OF THIS ARTICLE IS FIRST THE RARITY WITH WHICH THE SOVIET PRESS ADMITS FAILURE IN ANY OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC ENDEAVORS, AND SECOND THE OPEN CALL FOR INTERVENTION BY PARTY ORGANS TO GET THE JOB DONE. ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE ADMITS THAT FARMERS OF THE UKRAINE ARE RUNNING INTO DIFFICULTIES DUE TO UNFRIENDLY WEATHER, THE BLAME FOR NOT REMOVING THE STRAW FROM THE FIELDS, THUS DELAYING FALL PLOWING, IS LAID SQUARELY AT THE FARMERS' DOOR.

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6. RAINY WEATHER IS BEGINNING TO SURFACE AS A MAJOR FACTOR AFFECTING THIS YEAR'S HARVEST IN THE SOVIET UNION. WHILE UP TO NOW TREATMENT OF WEATHER CONDITIONS BY THE PRESS HAS BEEN USUAL -- REPORTED MAINLY AS A NATURAL PHENOMENON COMMON TO AGRICULTURE YEAR AFTER YEAR -- THIS ARTICLE, WHILE RECOGNIZING ADVERSE INFLUENCE OF THIS SUMMER'S FREQUENT AND HEAVY RAINS ON HARVESTING ACTIVITIES, FAILS TO EXTEND ANY SYMPATHY OR

UNDERSTANDING TO THE MAN IN THE FIELD, AND IT LEAVES NO DOUBT
IN THE READER'S MIND WHO IS TO BE BLAMED -- AND WHAT SHOULD
BE DONE ABOUT THIS SITUATION.

7. CLEARLY BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO KIEV AT THE END OF JULY, WHEN
HE PRESENTED THE "ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP OF NATIONS" TO THE
UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC, WAS FOR REASONS OTHER THAN AN EXPRESSION
OF FRIENDSHIP ALONE. THAT AGRICULTURE WEIGHED HEAVILY ON HIS
MIND IS EVIDENCE BY THE FACT THAT AMONG THOSE THAT ACCOMPANIED
HIM TO THE UKRAINE WERE DEPUTY PREMIER Z. N. NURIYEV, WHO HAS
RESPONSIBILITIES IN AGRICULTURE, AND G. S. ZOLOTYKHIN, MINISTER
OF PROCUREMENT. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT OF THE
EIGHT OBLASTS WHICH FAILED IN THEIR POST HARVEST STRAW GATHER-
ING ALL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SUMY, ARE LOCATED IN THOSE
PORTIONS OF THE WESTERN UKRAINE WHICH WERE INCORPORATED INTO
THE USSR IN 1939. ALTHOUGH CHRONIC SHORT-
AGES OF INPUTS ARE
INHERENT IN SOVIET AGRICULTURE, THE OLD FEELING OF NATIONALISM
PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND INDEPENDENCE TO DO AS ONE WISHES APPARENTLY
ALSO CONTINUES TO PERSIST AND TO PRESENT CERTAIN PROBLEMS FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.
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